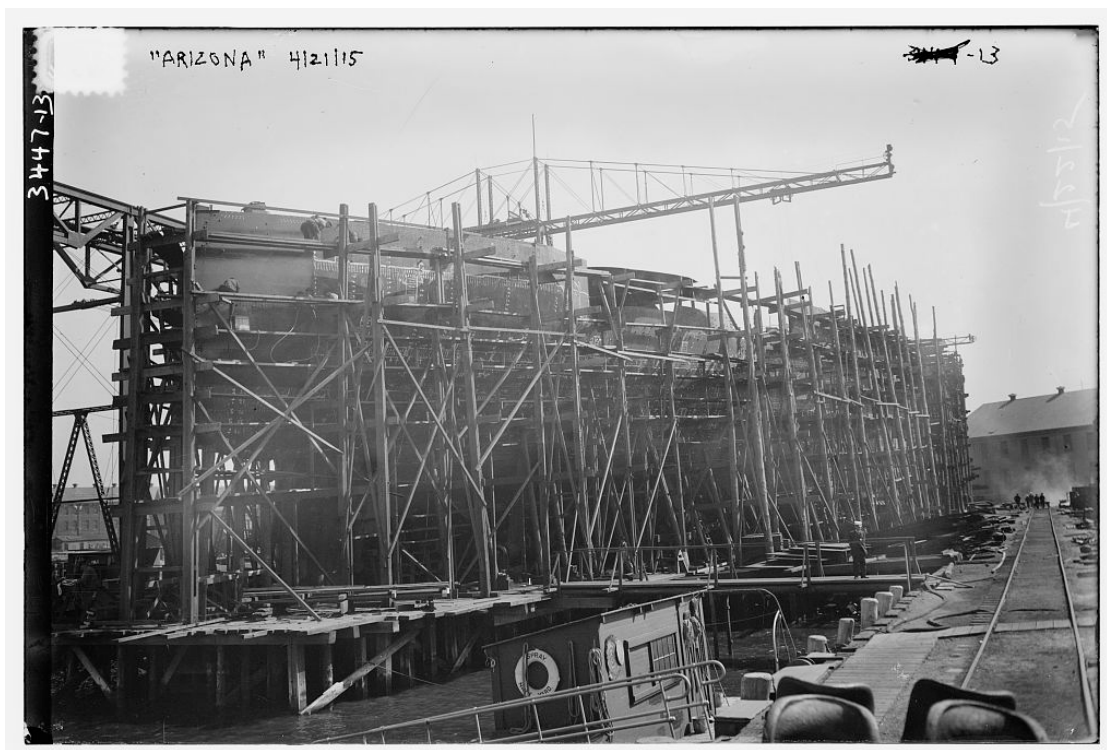


A.M.H.F.

Dedicated to preserving, in flying condition, a vintage PV-2 Harpoon in memory of all who fought in the air on behalf of the United States of America

News Letter February 2015



Greetings to members & friends of the AMHF,

Last month was not the best month for things being accomplished at MQJ. The weather has been nasty, people have been sick, and it just wasn't a nice month. Then I prepared to do the newsletter and had writers block. Now that we have all of the complaining out of the way I will try to bring you up to date on some of the things that are happening.

I have been in contact with the people building our new tanks and they are telling me we will see the chafe tape and pads in the very near future. That will enable us to get the inboard bays ready to receive them when they arrive. They are to send the right aft tanks first. Then if we could get some warm weather we might just be able to get them in. These will be followed by the left inboard tanks. I hope all of you realize we have much inside work to do getting things ready for the arrival of the tanks. Being ready to fly in May depends on us doing due diligence on getting ready for the tanks before they get here. We are already getting inquiries about our availability for airshows and some of them are not too far off.

The picture of the Arizona at the top was submitted by Donn. It is in Brooklyn Naval Yard and is considerably different than what most of us have seen before. I especially like the scaffolding they were using to work on.

I told you at the start I was having trouble getting this newsletter ready so I made a decision to list the BOD and to interview one of them, I also decided to make it Ladies first and since we only have one lady on the BOD, Paula was it. Now the rest of you don't need to cry. One of you will get your chance next month. There are many members and friends of the AMHF that I have never seen or met so at least they will know something about the people who are trying to keep things going and hopefully we will hear from them or maybe even get to meet them.

Your BOD is as follows:

Richard Suiter - president

Glen Matejcek - vice president

Paula King - secretary

Ted Osterreich - treasurer

Donn Starkey

Steve Montani

Gaylon Piercy

Roy Pellegrin - Advisor to the board and works with grants.

Well that takes care of it for this time I hope you enjoy the interview with Paula and you might learn something about her you didn't know.

Stay safe and enjoy life to the fullest,

Gaylon

Interview with Paula King

What is your back ground schooling, work, and hobbies, anything else we could mention that others might not know about you?

I have an associate and technical degree from Ivy Tech in Design and Cad Drafting. My first job was at Fujitsu-Ten in Rushville where I worked in preventative maintenance. Their major products were electronics for Toyota. After that I went to work for Raytheon where I was able to use my technical degree in designing and laying out work areas in the facility. When I was growing up I got hooked on the TV show Rat Patrol. I really don't know how many of the younger generation even know what the show was about but I was hooked and you will find out how bad later.

Tell me a little about this jeep and its foreign cousin the Land Cruiser.

It is a 1948 Willys CJ-2 which originally belonged to the Air Force. Somewhere along the line Rushville bought it for their Civil Defense then when they had no more use for it they sold it into private hands and I later bought it from them. I spent two to three years restoring it by adding new brakes, overhauling the engine, new tires, and cleaned and painted it. However, I still don't have a top for it yet and I am still missing the 50 cal. In the back so I can live out my fantasy of being in the Rat Patrol. If I could just talk our machinist into building that 50 cal. replica to set back there, I would be ready to go. However, I don't think we have any sand dunes around here to jump. As for the Land Cruiser I just like weird vehicles and it fits the bill. There have been more weird things go wrong with it than I care to talk about.

What caused you to join the AMHF?

I had joined the Ramp Rats, those who marshal the airplanes at airshows and other fly in events, and we were down at Greenwood. I was asked if I was interested in WWII airplane and of course I had to say yes. They told me there was one back in the hanger I could go look at and I did. I then found out I could become a member and I was hooked from there.

How long have you been associated with the AMHF?

I started with Greenwood in 2005 and have been with the AMHF ever since and this makes 10 years.

How long have you served on the BOD?

This will be my sixth year serving on the BOD.

Can you give other members a good reason to step up and fill a director's seat?

You can look at it as helping to maintain a rare airplane from WWII. It is a great airplane with a history that very few people know about except those associated with her. It is always good to have new people come on to the BOD because they can bring new ideas and perhaps some better ways to help the organization grow.

Now most of us who work on the Harpoon on a regular basis and have been around you know if someone yells Paula over here that means they have a spot no one else will fit in. What do you have to say about that?

This is true. It also means I have no doubt seen places in the Harpoon that no one has seen since it left Lockheed Burbank.

If a person walked up to you and asked about joining the organization what advice would you give him in regards to the work and historical significance of the plane? How about the clothes he would need if he worked on it?

The Harpoon belonging to AMHF was a small production and is rare. The Harpoon's have a lot of fascinating history to explore and understand. It is rewarding work especially when you have a WWII veteran come on board and start talking to you about his or her experience. You will need to expect the fact there will be highs and lows. This will be even more apparent when you are nursing some skinned knuckles or sore joints from working in one position too long. However, just remember you will come out of the valley and things will look much better.

For clothes nothing white or good. I don't care what all of the laundry detergent commercials say we have never found anything to take out Harpoon oil and dirt. Once you wear them to the Harpoon and get close to it they will be forever Harpoon clothes.

What would you like to see take place in the future or changes you believe the BOD could act on to make it even a better organization?

To me the two most important things that could happen to the organization would be to have a hanger which would both protect the plane and the people working on it. The second thing would be a source of revenue that would put the AMHF on a solid foundation for future generations.



"I can accept failure; everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying."

*Michael Jordan,
American professional basketball player*